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PTO/SB/21 (08-00)

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TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

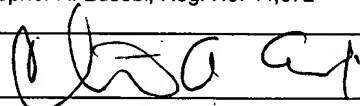
| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Application Number | 10/725,018 |
| Filing Date | December 1, 2003 |
| First Named Inventor | Christopher A. Eusebi |
| Group Art Unit | Unknown |
| Examiner Name | Unknown |
| Attorney Docket Number | |

Total Number of Pages in This Submission

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

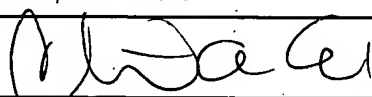
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|--|---|---|---------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Response <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 | <input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application) <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Form HDP-1449 (Based on PTO-1449 - 1 page); a copy of each of five (5) foreign patent documents; and postcard | | |
| <table><tr><td>Remarks</td><td></td></tr></table> | | | Remarks | |
| Remarks | | | | |

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Firm or Individual name | Christopher A. Eusebi, Reg. No. 44,672 |
| Signature |  |
| Date | July 26, 2004 |

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this date: July 26, 2004

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---|------|---------------|
| Typed or printed name | Christopher A. Eusebi | | |
| Signature |  | Date | July 26, 2004 |

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| <u>U.S. Serial Number</u> | <u>U.S. Filing Date</u> | <u>U.S. Patent No.</u> | <u>Issued</u> |
| 09/941,887 | 8/28/01 | 6,655,718 B2 | 12/02/03 |

C.____ Because the present application was/is being filed after June 30, 2003, no copies of the U.S. patents or U.S. patent application publications which are listed on the attached Form 1449 are enclosed pursuant to the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i). Any foreign patent documents or non-patent literature listed on the attached Form 1449 are enclosed herewith.

D.____ This is a PCT application in the entry of the National Phase in the United States. A copy of the International Search Report is attached for the Examiner's information. The documents listed on the International Search Report are listed on the attached Form-1449 for consideration by the Examiner and for listing on any patent resulting from this application. If the International Search Report was from the US, EPO, or JPO search authorities, copies of these references should have been supplied to the USPTO under the trilateral agreement and are believed to be in the file of the above-identified application. (MPEP 1893.03(g))

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE (check at least one box)

A. X Except as may be indicated below in (B), all of the patents, publications or other information are in the English language (concise explanation not required).

B. X A concise explanation of the relevance of each patent, publication or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)):

- 1.____ See the attached foreign patent office communication from a counterpart foreign application.
2. X English abstracts are provided.
- 3.____ Other:

C. ____ The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration.

IV. CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)

A.____ The Examiner is advised that the following co-pending application(s) contain(s) subject matter that may be related to the present application. By bringing this(these) application(s) to the Examiner's attention, Applicant(s) does(do) not waive the confidentiality provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 122.

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| <u>Serial No.</u> | <u>Filing Date</u> | <u>Art Unit</u> |
|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|

V. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER

A. X **37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b):** (check only one box)

1. ____ within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d) (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1)). No fee or certification is required.

2. ____ within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(2)). No fee or certification is required.

3. X before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3)). No fee or certification is required. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been issued, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and see the certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) below; or, if no certification has been made, charge our deposit account a fee in the amount of \$180.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

4. ____ before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No fee or certification is required.

B. ____ **37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c):** (check only one box)

before the mailing date of either any Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution.

1. ____ No certification; therefore, a fee in the amount of \$180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

2. ____ See the certification below. No fee is required.

C. ____ **37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d):**

after the mailing date of either a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, yet on or before payment of the issue fee.

1. ____ See the certification below. A fee in the amount of \$180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

VI. **CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e):** (check only one box)

The undersigned hereby certifies that:

A. ____ each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS (See 37 C.F.R. §

1.97(e)(1)). See further statement under 37 C.F. R. 1.704(d) below in section VII, if applicable; or

B. ____ no item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2)).

C. ____ Some of the items of information were first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office. As to this information, the undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby certifies that no item of this remaining information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

VII. STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.704(d)

The undersigned hereby states that:

____ each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this IDS.

VIII. PAYMENT OF FEES (check only one box)

A. A check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed for the above-identified fee.

The above references are being cited only in the interest of candor and without any admission that they constitute statutory prior art, contain matter which anticipates the invention, or which would render the same obvious, either singly or in combination, to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Furthermore, this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 26-2004

By: Chae

Christopher A. Eusebi, Reg. No. 44,672

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FORM HDP-1449 (Based on Form PTO 1449)

**PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION**

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| ATTORNEY DOCKET No. | SERIAL No. |
| | 10/725,018 |
| APPLICANT | |
| Christopher A. Eusebi | |
| FILING DATE | GROUP |
| December 1, 2003 | Unknown |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Ref. Desig. | Examiner's Initials | Document Number | Date | Name | Class/ Subclass | (If appropriate) Filing Date |
|-------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 1. | | 3,819,197 | 06/25/74 | Shakespear | | |
| 2. | | 3,963,273 | 06/15/76 | Nagazumi | | |
| 3. | | 4,811,912 | 03/14/89 | Takada | | |
| 4. | | 4,915,413 | 04/10/90 | Meyer | | |
| 5. | | 5,280,995 | 01/25/94 | Elton | | |
| 6. | | 5,494,316 | 02/27/96 | Maesing et al. | | |
| 7. | | 5,799,894 | 09/01/98 | Kohlndorfer et al. | | |
| 8. | | 5,831,342 | 11/03/98 | Vivacqua et al. | | |
| 9. | | 5,992,884 | 11/30/99 | Gillespie et al. | | |
| 10. | | 6,116,696 | 09/12/00 | Widman et al. | | |
| 11. | | 6,305,713 B1 | 10/23/01 | Pywell et al. | | |
| 12. | | 6,334,628 B1 | 01/01/02 | Newball et al. | | |
| 13. | | 6,338,502 B1 | 01/15/02 | Czank | | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Ref. Desig. | Examiner's Initials | Document Number | Date | Country | Class/ Subclass | Translation Yes | No |
|-------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|----|
| 1. | | FR 2667032 A | 03/1992 | France | | Abstract | |
| 2. | | DE 4001119 A1 | 07/1991 | Germany | | Abstract | |
| 3. | | JP 63130448 A | 06/1988 | Japan | | Abstract | |
| 4. | | JP 63130449 A | 06/1988 | Japan | | Abstract | |
| 5. | | JP 63242754 A | 10/1988 | Japan | | Abstract | |

Examiner:

Date Considered:

EXAMINER: Please initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.